

minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member here for their consideration. This is a good, commonsense bill. It passed out of the Congress last time, and I appreciate the bipartisan nature, particularly the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA), for his positive words in the passage of this piece of legislation.

H.R. 251, the South Utah Valley Electric Conveyance Act, transfers title on certain portions of the electric distribution system operated by the South Utah Valley Electric Service District, SESD, from the Bureau of Reclamation to SESD. Local users repaid all applicable construction costs to the Federal Government decades ago.

□ 1710

This bill, H.R. 251, is needed because in order to become more efficient and more effective, ownership needs to be transferred. The system is part of the larger Strawberry Valley Project, which began in 1906.

This title transfer benefits the Federal taxpayers and the local communities that use the system. The transfer of title will divest the Bureau of Reclamation of Federal liability while providing SESD greater autonomy and flexibility to manage facilities in a manner that best meets its needs.

H.R. 251 is consistent with existing Federal policy, and since 1996, as the chairman mentioned, there have been roughly 27 Bureau of Reclamation projects to local entities that have gone through this transfer type of process. An identical bill, H.R. 461, passed in the House in the 112th Congress by voice vote, passed this September 23 of 2011.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes." I appreciate, again, the good work on both sides of the aisle to help pass this, and I urge a "yes" vote.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests. If the gentleman from Arizona is prepared to yield back, I'm prepared to yield back.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield back the balance of my time and urge adoption of the legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 251.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further pro-

ceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### FRUIT HEIGHTS LAND CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 993) to provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of National Forest System land to the city of Fruit Heights, Utah.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 993

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fruit Heights Land Conveyance Act".

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CITY.—The term "City" means the city of Fruit Heights, Utah.

(2) MAP.—The term "map" means the map entitled "Proposed Fruit Heights City Conveyance" and dated September 13, 2012.

(3) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND.—The term "National Forest System land" means the approximately 100 acres of National Forest System land, as depicted on the map.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.

#### SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN LAND TO THE CITY OF FRUIT HEIGHTS, UTAH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall convey to the City, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the National Forest System land.

(b) SURVEY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If determined by the Secretary to be necessary, the exact acreage and legal description of the National Forest System land shall be determined by a survey approved by the Secretary.

(2) COSTS.—The City shall pay the reasonable survey and other administrative costs associated with a survey conducted under paragraph (1).

(c) EASEMENT.—As a condition of the conveyance under subsection (a), the Secretary shall reserve an easement to the National Forest System land for the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

(d) USE OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND.—As a condition of the conveyance under subsection (a), the City shall use the National Forest System land only for public purposes.

(e) REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—In the quitclaim deed to the City for the National Forest System land, the Secretary shall provide that the National Forest System land shall revert to the Secretary, at the election of the Secretary, if the National Forest System land is used for other than a public purpose.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 993, introduced by our distinguished subcommittee chairman, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to convey approximately 100 acres of National Forest System land to the city of Fruit Heights in Utah. Fruit Heights is completely surrounded by Federal land and is in desperate need of a place to develop a cemetery. This legislation would convey a small parcel of Federal land for that important public service.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 993 would transfer 100 acres of Forest Service land to Fruit Heights, Utah, at no cost to the city, for use as a cemetery. The parcel of land in question was purchased by the Federal Government in 2002 for over \$3 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

It is obviously not ideal for Federal taxpayers to give away land that was purchased with Federal money just 11 years ago. However, the bill makes clear that should the land ever be used for anything other than a public purpose, the parcel will come back to Federal ownership.

We do not object to H.R. 993, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to yield 4 minutes to the author of this legislation, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Fruit Heights, Utah, is a city of around 5,000 people. In the center of Davis County to the east are the mountains which are owned by the Forest Service. Surrounding it to the south is the city of Farmington, which has a landlocked cemetery and only allows Farmington residents to be buried there. On the west and the north is Kaysville and Layton, which has a cemetery which faces the same situation and is restricting who can be buried there, as well.

Fruit Heights really has a significant problem. The only way they can go is east, up the mountain, on land that is currently owned by the Forest Service but is within the boundaries of Fruit Heights itself. So on this map, the brown, barren area without trees is what's owned by the Forest Service. Totally surrounding the Forest Service land are houses, and only residential roads can get up to this particular area. Running through the middle, blasted in there, is a canal which will be preserved for canal use and be dedicated to that. Above it, the area that is above that, still within the city of

Fruit Heights, is too steep for any development.

So, by city ordinance, they have already said, when they receive this land, that will be permanent open space. The area below the canal here is the land in question that would be transferred to the city for the purpose of a cemetery, which they drastically need. They have been through every area they have as potential in Fruit Heights City. This is truly the only area.

It is true that a nature conservancy group purchased this land from a citizen in Fruit Heights and then sold it at a profit to the Federal Government to be used as habitat for mule deer. The Mule Deer Association is neutral on this bill, neither opposing it nor in favor of it, and they basically privately say that if it's a cemetery, they'll probably have more forage potential for the mule deer than they have right now.

This is what is necessary. I appreciate the minority's working with me on this particular issue to find the realization that there is a need for a cemetery. I thank them for their support. I thank the chairman for putting this crucial issue forward, which to us may be not crucial, but to those dying to get into this place, it is indeed crucial.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I advise my friend from Arizona I have no further speakers, and I'm prepared to yield back if he is.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield back the balance of my time and urge adoption of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 993.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### RATTLESNAKE MOUNTAIN PUBLIC ACCESS ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1157) to ensure public access to the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain in the Hanford Reach National Monument for educational, recreational, historical, scientific, cultural, and other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1157

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Rattlesnake Mountain Public Access Act".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Hanford Reach National Monument is public land that belongs to the American people.

(2) The United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Monument restricts public access to large portions of the Monument, including the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain.

(3) Public access to Rattlesnake Mountain is important for educational, recreational, historical, scientific, and cultural purposes.

(4) Rattlesnake Mountain reaches an elevation of 3,660 feet above sea level—the highest elevation of the Monument, and provides unparalleled scenic views over the Monument, the Hanford Site, and the Columbia River.

(5) Public access to Rattlesnake Mountain will increase tourism interest in the Monument and will provide economic benefits to local governments.

#### SEC. 3. ENSURING PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE SUMMIT OF RATTLESNAKE MOUNTAIN IN THE HANFORD REACH NATIONAL MONUMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall provide public access to the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain in the Hanford Reach National Monument for educational, recreational, historical, scientific, cultural, and other purposes, including—

- (1) motor vehicle access; and
- (2) pedestrian and other nonmotorized access.

(b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of the Interior may enter into cooperative agreements to facilitate access to the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain—

(1) with the Secretary of Energy, the State of Washington, or any local government agency or other interested persons, for guided tours, including guided motorized tours to the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain; and

(2) with the Secretary of Energy, and with the State of Washington or any local government agency or other interested persons, to maintain the access road to the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material to the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1157 directs the Department of the Interior to provide the public with motorized, nonmotorized, and pedestrian access to the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain, located in my district on the Hanford Reach National Monument. This 195,000-acre monument, designated by President Clinton in 2000, is near the Hanford Nuclear Site and is the only one in the continental United States managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

At 3,600 feet, Rattlesnake Mountain is the highest point in the region, and it provides unparalleled views for miles around the monument, the Hanford

Site, the Snake River, the Columbia River, and, of course, the Yakima River.

Unfortunately, it took the Fish and Wildlife Service 8 years to write a management plan that effectively closed Rattlesnake Mountain to public access, despite the public comments favoring just the opposite.

After I first introduced this bill in 2010, the Fish and Wildlife Service offered two public tours for selected individuals and then suddenly reneged on the offer just days before the tours were to occur.

During a 2011 committee hearing on the bill, the Interior Department's testimony suggested that the Fish and Wildlife Service supports tours of Rattlesnake, but very carefully didn't go the extra step of ensuring the Service would allow public access to the summit.

Finally, last month, the Fish and Wildlife Service granted a few dozen people the opportunity to tour Rattlesnake Mountain summit over two tours. These were the first two public tours offered since the monument was designated.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is necessary to ensure reasonable and regular public access can be guaranteed by law to the citizens of that area. The legislation is sponsored by the Tri-Cities Development Council, TRIDEC; the Board of County Commissioners; Benton County Commissioners, in which Rattlesnake Mountain is located; the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce; the Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau; and the Back Country Horsemen of Washington.

The American people deserve to have access to public lands, including Rattlesnake Mountain in my district. I ask that the House pass this reasonable legislation today to make that possible.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1720

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1157, which would require the Fish and Wildlife Service to provide both motorized and non-motorized access to the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain.

The bill would allow the Fish and Wildlife Service to enter into cooperative agreements with the Department of Energy, the State of Washington, local governments, and other interested persons to provide guided tours to the summit of the mountain and to maintain the access road to the mountain.

In 2008, the Fish and Wildlife Service completed its management plan for this area and determined that service-sponsored or -led tours and a hiking trail are appropriate and compatible uses of the area.

In October of 2011, at the hearing on H.R. 2719, the Fish and Wildlife Service supported the bill's intent to provide